

EDEF 3200

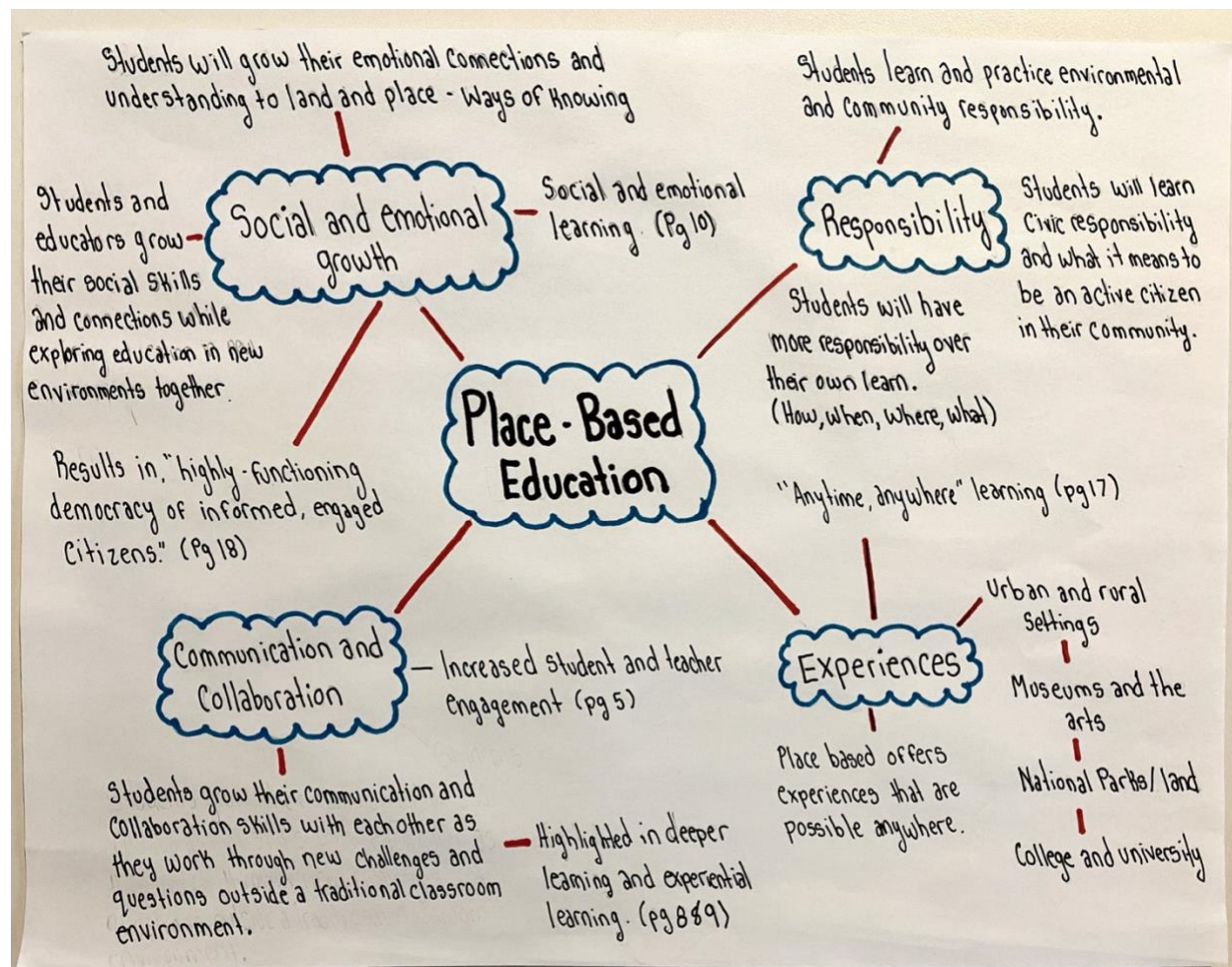
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Place-Based Education- Questions and Web

A question that came to my mind while reading this article that was not addressed was, what are the possible drawbacks of place-based education? Place-based education is beneficial in so many ways. However, for this type of learning to be carried out in the most authentic way that provides meaningful learning for students, the educator must be able to fully understand the role they play in facilitating this type of learning. The article states that the priority in place-based education “leverages the power of place” (pg. 2). For this to be successful, educators must also understand the power of place. They should have a meaningful connection to the learning they are providing. With this type of education, it could be very easy to simply do lessons outside or go on field trips, can result in a loss of connection to the actual learning that was intended. This is not to say that field trips or lessons outside are not effective, they just might lack the connection piece of place and the curriculum. Educators must also be aware of the power they hold when it comes to teaching students about the land and the connections, they make of it. Place-based education can be so beneficial when it comes to addressing ways of knowing and understanding where we are and how we got here as well as the distinction between place and space. Therefore, it is important that educators have done that self-reflective work in order to pass that along to students. This leads me to wonder what effective training could look like for educators wanting to include place-based ed in their practice. I feel this could certainly be a course that is implemented in education programs for teachers in training so there is time to focus on connections to land and place.

My first question somewhat lays the groundwork for the second question that came up while reading the article. To me, place-based education seems to be deeply rooted in decolonization. My question is, why is there no mention of ways of knowing, decolonization, or Indigenous issues which seem to be such an obvious connection to place-based education. My first thought was that perhaps place-based ed is still growing and developing and the connection between place-based and colonization has not been explored yet. However, place-based education has been around for many years. I feel that this article, though extremely informative and beneficial in introducing place-based education, it fails to make the critical connection between this type of learning and what it means to connect to place and space. Though they discuss the power of place and its importance, they do not explicitly state what that means or looks like. This could be potentially harmful for educators who fail to make these important connections when using this as a tool in their practice. To that point, I would again highlight the importance of educators doing self-reflective work before attempting place-based education and use this article as a way to supplement that.



Work Cited

What is place-based education and why does it matter? (n.d.). Retrieved March 22, 2022, from <https://www.gettingsmart.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/What-is-Place-Based-Education-and-Why-Does-it-Matter-4.pdf>